

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A cell comprising a vector containing a gene encoding a protein made of an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or amino acid sequence ranging from 394-position to 532-position in the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, or a protein made of an amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 4 or amino acid sequence ranging from 396-position to 534-position of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein a Toll-like receptor 3 is expressed in the cell.

2. (original) A cell as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the cell is a human fibroblast, a human dendritic cell, a human intestinal epithelial cell, or mouse fibroblast.

3. (currently amended) A screening method for compound for inhibiting binding of Toll-like receptor 3 and the protein, the method comprising the steps of:

causing a candidate compound to be in contact with the cell as set forth in Claim

1 or 2; and

checking whether the protein and Toll-like receptor 3 bind to each other or not.

4. (currently amended) A therapeutic agent for treating a disease that is able to be ameliorated by enhancing Type I interferon production, the therapeutic agent containing the cell as set forth in Claim 1 or 2.

5. (currently amended) A therapeutic agent as set forth in Claim 4, wherein the disease is cancer or a viral infectious disease.

6. (original) A therapeutic agent as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the cancer is hepatoma, kidney cancer, juvenile pharynx villous tumor, malignant lymphoma, cerebral tumor, glioblastoma, medulloblastoma, astrocytoma, or dermal malignant melanoma.

7. (currently amended) A therapeutic agent as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the viral infectious disease is hepatitis B or hepatitis C.

8. (original) A therapeutic agent for treating a disease that is able to be ameliorated by enhancing Type I interferon production, the therapeutic agent containing a protein made of an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or amino acid sequence ranging from 394-position to 532-position in the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, or a protein made of an amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 4 or amino acid sequence ranging from 396-position to 534-position of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein a Toll-like receptor 3 is expressed in the cell.

9. (original) A therapeutic agent for treating a disease that is able to be ameliorated by enhancing Type I interferon production, the therapeutic agent containing

a vector containing a gene encoding a protein made of an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or amino acid sequence ranging from 394-position to 532-position in the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, or a protein made of an amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 4 or amino acid sequence ranging from 396-position to 534-position of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein a Toll-like receptor 3 is expressed in the cell.

10. (original) A therapeutic agent for treating a disease that is able to be ameliorated by enhancing Type I interferon production, the therapeutic agent containing a cell containing a vector containing a gene encoding a protein made of an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or amino acid sequence ranging from 394-position to 532-position in the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, or a protein made of an amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 4 or amino acid sequence ranging from 396-position to 534-position of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein a Toll-like receptor 3 is expressed in the cell.

Claims 11-22. (cancelled)